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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 03 CAIRO 00396

E.O. 12065: NA  
TAGS: PEPR, EG, AF  
SUBJECT: EGYPT INTENSIFIES SUPPORT FOR AFGHAN REBELS

1. (LOU) SUMMARY: CONCLUDING A "WEEK OF SOLIDARITY WITH

ACTION  
INFO

(U,6,8)

NIDS(\*) SAGA(1) NMCC:(\*) J5(2)  
RDJTFLIO(1) SECDEF:(\*) SECDEF(7) USDP(15) NMIC(\*)  
SHS(1) AT(2) DIO(1) VP-A2(1) DE(1) DB-1G(1) DR-2C(1)  
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ARMY(\*) NAVY(\*) AIR FORCE(\*)

TOTAL COPIES REQUIRED

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AFGHAN MUJAHIDIN" EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS URGED AFGHAN RESISTANCE LEADERS TO UNITE AND FORM A GOVERNMENT IN EXILE, AVOID ARAB ISLAMIC RIVALRIES AND CONFRONT SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO DOMINATE THE REGION. EGYPTIANS PROMISED TO PROVIDE AFGHANS WITH FOOD, CLOTHING AND MILITARY ARMS AND TRAINING. BY WEEK'S END, SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND EGYPTIAN POUNDS HAD REPORTEDLY BEEN COLLECTED FROM EGYPTIAN CONTRIBUTIONS. NOW THAT THE PUBLIC RELATIONS BLITZ IS OVER, EGYPTIANS ARE AS MUCH IN THE DARK AS BEFORE REGARDING THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO THE AFGHAN RESISTANCE MOVEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT, ACTING THROUGH THE LEAGUE OF ARAB AND ISLAMIC PEOPLES, STAGED A WEEK LONG SERIES OF PUBLIC EVENTS TO DRAMATIZE EGYPT'S SUPPORT FOR AFGHAN REBELS, HIGHLIGHTED BY MEETING BETWEEN SADAT AND AFGHAN REBEL LEADERS, POPULAR RALLIES IN SEVERAL CITIES AND SPECIAL SESSION OF PEOPLES ASSEMBLY. PRESS AND MEDIA PROVIDED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF AFGHAN SOLIDARITY WEEK, INCLUDING REPORTS OF POPULAR DONATIONS TO AFGHAN CAUSE BY EGYPTIAN INSTITUTIONS (ICA IS REPORTING SEPARATELY ON PRESS COVERAGE OF AFGHAN SITUATION). ADDITIONALLY, MANY FRIDAY SERMONS WERE DEVOTED TO AFGHAN STRUGGLE, MOST NOTEWORTHY BEING AFGHAN REBEL LEADER HOUGADDADY'S DEC. 26 SERMON IN MOSQUE IN SADAT'S VILLAGE OF MIT ABUL KOM.

3. (U) AFGHAN LEADERS: FIVE OF THE SIX MAIN AFGHAN REVOLUTIONARY GROUPS WERE REPRESENTED IN CAIRO DURING THE WEEK INCLUDING:

- MOHAMED NASI MOHAMADI, LEADER OF THE ISLAMIC REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT;
- SHEIKH SEBATTULAH EL MOGADDADY, CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL FRONT FOR THE SALVATION OF AFGHANISTAN;
- EL SAYED AHMED EL GAILANI, LEADER OF THE ISLAMIC NATIONAL FRONT;
- MOHAMED YOUNIS KHALIS, LEADER OF THE ISLAMIC PARTY, (HIZB ISLAMI);
- MOHAMED TAWANNA, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE ISLAMIC SOCIETY.

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4. (U) THROUGHOUT THE WEEK, AFGHAN LEADERS DESCRIBED THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST SOVIET OCCUPATION AND DETAILED THEIR NEEDS. MOGADDADY SAID REBELS FACE FOOD CRISIS AND NEED ARMS AND AMMUNITION TO CONTINUE THEIR STRUGGLE. HE COMPLAINED THAT, DESPITE PROMISES MADE BY ARABS AT SEVERAL CONFERENCES, ACTUAL DELIVERIES OF ASSISTANCE HAVE BEEN INADEQUATE. HE SAID ARAB COUNTRIES HAVE NOT EXTENDED MONEY OR ARMS OFFICIALLY, BUT HAVE ONLY SENT CONTRIBUTIONS COLLECTED FROM PRIVATE SOURCES. HE NOTED, FOR EXAMPLE, POPULAR COMMITTEE FORMED IN SAUDI ARABIA TO COLLECT DONATIONS AND CHANNEL THEM TO AFGHAN REBELS IN PAKISTAN. AFGHANI LEADERS MAINTAINED THAT U.S. AND EUROPE SUPPORT STRUGGLE POLITICALLY BUT HAVE NOT FURNISHED MILITARY OR FINANCIAL AID. DR. MURIALLAH NASARI, CHAIRMAN OF THE UNION FOR THE RELIEF OF AFGHAN REFUGEES, TOLD LOCAL PRESS THAT AFGHANS NEED ARMS, FOOD, CLOTHING, TENTS AND MEDICAL AID FOR REBELS AND FOR TWO MILLION AFGHAN REFUGEES.

5. (U) STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT: IN SEVERAL MAJOR STATEMENTS EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS PROMISED TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT AFGHAN REBELS WITH ARMS AND FINANCIAL AID. DURING MEETING WITH AFGHAN LEADERS DECEMBER 26 IN MIT ABUL KOM, SADAT ADVISED THEM TO AVOID ARAB AND ISLAMIC DISPUTES, TO CLOSE RANKS AND PREPARE FOR EXTENDED STRUGGLE AND FORM A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT IN EXILE. SADAT PROMISED TO DOUBLE EGYPTIAN AID TO AFGHAN PEOPLE UNTIL THEY RECOVER THEIR FREEDOM AND ESTABLISH INDEPENDENT NATIONAL REGIME. FOLLOWING SPEECH BY FORMIN KAMAL HASSAN ALI, LEAGUE OF ISLAMIC AND ARAB PEOPLES ADOPTED FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:

--TO COLLECT CONTRIBUTIONS OF TWO PERCENT OF THE SALARIES AND PENSIONS OF CIVIL SERVANTS WHO EARN IN EXCESS OF L500;  
--TO LEVY A JIHAD TAX, WITH PROCEEDS TO BE GIVEN TO AFGHAN PEOPLE;

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RUSBAE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0884  
RUFNPS/AMEMBASSY PARIS 5992  
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- TO ESTABLISH AN OFFICE IN THE LEAGUE TO COLLECT DONATIONS;
- TO CALL UPON ISLAMIC AND ARAB COUNTRIES TO SEVER RELATIONS WITH "THE PUPPET AFGHAN GOVERNMENT".

6. (U) EGYPTIAN INSTITUTIONS AND POPULAR

ACTION (I,M)  
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NAVY(\*) AIR FORCE(\*)

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GROUPS RESPONDED TO THE GOVERNMENT'S CALL IN A SERIES OF STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT. EGYPTIAN FEDERATION OF LABOR CALLED ON ARAB WORKERS TO AID AFGHAN PEOPLE. TRADE UNIONS OF BANK AND AGRICULTURAL WORKERS CALLED ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNIONS TO ORGANIZE CAMPAIGN OF SUPPORT FOR AFGHANS. FEDERATION OF EGYPTIAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE ISSUED STATEMENT APPEALING TO BUSINESSMEN TO SUPPLY AFGHANS WITH MATERIAL AND MORAL SUPPORT. PEOPLES ASSEMBLY ARAB AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEES ISSUED JOINT STATEMENT CALLING FOR WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET FORCES, END TO SOVIET INVASION IN AFGHANISTAN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, AND RIGHT OF AFGHAN PEOPLE TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT. DR. AHMED EL BENHAWI, CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, ASKED PHYSICIANS TO DONATE MEDICINES TO VICTIMS OF SOVIET AGGRESSION. HIGHER COUNCIL FOR ISLAMIC AFFAIRS ISSUED STATEMENT CALLING ON ISLAMIC PEOPLES TO SUPPORT AFGHANISTAN AGAINST A SOVIET INVASION. DR. MOHAMED ABDUL RAHMAN BISSAR, GRAND SHEIKH OF AL AZHAR, ASKED AL AZHAR EMPLOYEES TO SUPPORT AFGHAN PEOPLE. FORMER MINISTER OF WAQFS SHEIKH SHAARAWI, IN EGYPTIAN TELEVISION BROADCAST, SPOKE OF DUTY OF ARAB AND ISLAMIC PEOPLES TO SUPPORT ISLAMIC STRUGGLE IN AFGHANISTAN. MINSTATE BOUTROS GHALI, IN INTERVIEW WITH AHRAM CORRESPONDENT, DENOUNCED PASSIVE POSITION OF NON-ALIGNED STATES AND DIVISION OF ISLAMIC COUNTRIES WHICH HAS RESULTED IN THEIR FAILURE TO DENOUNCE SOVIET INVASION.

7. (U) AFGHAN LEADERS HELD CONTINUOUS ROUND OF MEETINGS WITH ALL SECTORS OF EGYPTIAN SOCIETY. IN ADDITION TO SADAT MEETING AND SPECIAL SESSION OF PEOPLES ASSEMBLY, AFGHANS MET AL AZHAR LEADERS, MINDEF AHMED BADAWI, DEPUTY PREMIER FUAD MUHIEDDIN, SHURA COUNCIL SPEAKER SOBHI EL HAKIM, UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS, MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY, TRADE UNION LEADERS, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ISLAMIC PRESS AND POPULAR GROUPS IN PORT SAID, ISMAILIA, AND CENTRAL SINAI.

8. (U) CONTRIBUTIONS: FOLLOWING VISIT TO ARAB INDUSTRIALIZATION AUTHORITY, AFGHAN LEADERS WERE GIVEN TOKEN GIFT OF EGYPTIAN ANTI-TANK ROCKETS, ANTI-TANK HAND GRE-

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NADES, AND HAND GRENADES. MINDEF BADAWI GAVE AFGHANS EGYPTIAN MADE PISTOLS AND MACHINE GUNS MANUFACTURED IN EGYPTIAN MILITARY FACTORIES. SADAT TOLD AFGHANS EGYPT WILL SUPPLY REBELS WITH ANTI-TANK AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS.

- POPULAR CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PORT SAID CITIZENS EXCEEDED LE 750,000;
  - CAIRO ROTARY CLUB DONATED MORE THAN LE 1,000;
  - EGYPTIAN FEDERATION OF LABOR PROMISED CONTRIBUTION OF LE 1,000 FOR EACH UNION WITH LESS THAN 80,000 MEMBERSHIP AND LE 2,000 FOR EACH UNION WITH MORE THAN 80,000 MEMBERSHIP;
  - CINEMA INDUSTRY AGREED TO DONATE PROCEEDS OF SPECIAL SHOW IN FIRST CLASS MOVIE HOUSES;
  - AL AZHAR EMPLOYEES DONATED BETWEEN ONE AND THREE DAYS PAY;
  - EGYPTIAN ANGLICAN CHURCH DONATED LE 500;
  - MINISTER OF WAGFS, DR. ZAKARIAH EL BARRI, COLLECTED LE 10,000;
  - EGYPTIAN RED CRESCENT SOCIETY RECEIVED MORE THAN ONE MILLION PIECES OF CLOTHING FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN;
  - PEOPLES ASSEMBLY MEMBERS AGREED TO DONATE ONE MONTH'S SALARY;
  - ONE DAY'S PAY WAS CONTRIBUTED BY WORKERS IN KAFR EL SHEIKH GOVERNORATE, TRADE UNION OF SUEZ CANAL COMPANY, ALEXANDRIA THERMALS COMPANY AND TRADE UNION OF THE CAIRO ELECTRIC COMPANY.
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**C O N F I D E N T I A L**

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9. (U) EGYPTIAN COMMENTARY: NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS AND COLUMNISTS DESCRIBED "FEROCIOUS RESISTANCE" OF AFGHAN REBELS AGAINST SOVIET OCCUPATION AND CALLED ON ARAB, ISLAMIC AND NON-ALIGNED STATES TO SUPPORT AFGHAN STRUGGLE. SEVERAL COLUMNISTS ASSERTED THAT SOVIET INTERVENTION IN AFGHANISTAN IS BRIDGEHEAD FOR EXTENSION OF SOVIET INFLUENCE

## ACTION

(I, M)

INFO NIDS(\*) SAGA(1) NMCC:(\*) J5(2) RDJTF:LO(1)  
SECDEF:(\*) SECDEF(7) USDP(15) NMIC(\*) SWS(1) AT(2)  
DIO(1) VP-A2(1) DE(1) DB-1G(1) DB-2C(1) DB-3B(2)  
DB-3C(3) DB-4A(1) DB-5(1) DIA FILE(1) ARMY(\*)  
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IN GULF AND AFRICA. OTHER COLUMNISTS ECHOED SADAT'S CRITICISM OF ARAB STATES, IN PARTICULAR, SYRIA, LIBYA, PLO, ALGERIA, AND SOUTH YEMEN, FOR THEIR FAILURE TO SUPPORT AFGHAN CAUSE. ONE COLUMNIST CHIDED THE WEST FOR FAILURE TO PROVIDE MORE "POLITICAL" SUPPORT FOR AFGHANS, ASKING WHETHER THIS PARALLELS EXTENSIVE SOVIET ASSISTANCE TO VIET NAM, RHODESIA, AND ANGOLA.

18. (LOU) COMMENT: EGYPTIANS BOTH IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT RESPONDED ENTHUSIASTICALLY TO GOE'S INTENSE AND HIGHLY COORDINATED CAMPAIGN TO AID AFGHAN RESISTANCE. NOT ONLY IS THERE GENUINE SYMPATHY AND COMMITMENT IN EGYPT TO THE AFGHAN CAUSE, BUT THE SITUATION PROVIDES AN EXCELLENT POLITICAL OPPORTUNITY TO ASSERT EGYPT'S ARAB AND ISLAMIC LEADERSHIP ROLE AND TO CONTRAST EGYPTIAN PRACTICE WITH THE FAILURE OF MOST OTHER ARABS TO DO ANYTHING SUBSTANTIAL FOR THE AFGHANS. NOW THAT THE PUBLIC RELATIONS BLITZ IS OVER, EGYPTIANS ARE AS MUCH IN THE DARK AS BEFORE REGARDING THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO THE AFGHAN RESISTANCE MOVEMENT.

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